

## **Dr Nick Capstick OBE calls for “a post-Covid reset of school food, to set the stage for a healthier generation”**

- Dr Nick Capstick will chair a new School Food Review working group
- The working group is made up of expert organisations working to improve school food
- The group is inviting responses to a survey, in partnership with the GENIUS network, by 19th July

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A new School Food Review working group has been set up by leading practitioners and campaigners working to improve school food across the country, under the chairship of White Horse Federation CEO, Dr Nick Capstick [*See Notes for Editors for biography*]. In the wake of Covid-19, where issues of food access, inequality and obesity<sup>1</sup> have come into sharp focus, the working group is building a case for a root and branch review of school food to:

- Put nutritious food centre stage for all children in school, helping them to eat better and learn better
- Ensure that every child can access a hot, healthy meal, every day at school
- Demonstrate the positive impact of an improved school food system on learning and health outcomes

The working group is supported by Impact on Urban Health and brings together the Food Foundation and organisations in the #EndChildFoodPoverty coalition (supporting Marcus Rashford), with School Food Matters, Bite Back 2030 and a wider group of expert partners. [*See Notes for Editors for current membership*]

The first phase of the working group’s activity is to conduct a broad survey of schools, pupils, parents, caterers, local authorities and NGOs to collect insights on best practice from across the UK and identify priority areas for reform. The survey has been developed in partnership with the GENIUS network (the UK based network of academics interested in school food) and is now live until 19th July:

[https://acsurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0662W4w7jhYpWcu](https://acsurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0662W4w7jhYpWcu). The group will then build a case for school food reform in England, engaging across Government departments and working closely with the sector.

### **Speaking about the group’s formation, Dr Nick Capstick said:**

“The last year has been incredibly difficult for pupils, parents, teachers and the frontline teams that support us in schools. We are so grateful for the way that everyone has pulled together. As we collectively start to look beyond the pandemic, we have the chance to listen, learn and rebuild towards a healthier future for every young person.

“The School Food Review working group is building the case for a post-Covid reset of school food, to set the stage for a healthier generation. I urge everyone to complete the survey, so

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<https://digital.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/one-million-admissions-linked-to-obesity-in-2019-20-new-data-reveals>

that we can effectively demonstrate the positive impact of an improved school food system on learning and health.”

**Anna Garrod, Policy and Influencing Director, Impact on Urban Health:**

‘We are excited to be partnering with and supporting the working group to call for a review of school food. All children should be provided with nutritious, tasty food no matter where they go to school. We know that this is currently not the case, with the quality of school food differing hugely across England. There is a real potential post Covid, to re-align incentives in the school food system to prioritise nutritious food and ensure that children’s health is put first.’

**ENDS**

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**Notes for Editors**

- 1. The School Food Review working group survey is live until 19th July here:**  
[https://acsurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0662W4w7jhYpWcu](https://acsurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0662W4w7jhYpWcu)
- 2. Current members of the School Food Review working group are:**

Adopt a School, Royal Academy of Culinary Arts
ASSIST Facilities Management (ASSIST FM)
Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)
APSE Scotland
Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)
Bite Back 2030
Chefs in Schools
Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)
Children in Northern Ireland
Children’s Food Campaign
CookWise
Eagle Solutions
Federation of Wholesale Distributors
Feeding Britain
Food for Life
Food Foundation
Food Sense Wales
GENIUS School Food Network
Impact on Urban Health
Institute of School Business Leadership
Jamie Oliver Group
LACA – the school food people

LACA Wales
Local Government Association (LGA)
Magic Breakfast
National Governance Association (NGA)
Northumbria University
School Food Matters
Soil Association
The Children's Society
The Mayor's Fund
UNISON

### **3. Dr Nick Capstick OBE - Biography**

Dr Nick Capstick OBE is CEO of White Horse Federation, a trust with 32 schools focusing on areas of high disadvantage. He's also a trustee of UK Youth and Treasurer of the Queen's Street Group. Nick is passionate about food and nutrition as part of a wider vision for social mobility.